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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

# The Journal Register

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## Looking back at 2020

It seemed almost as soon as it began, 2020 was turning into a year a lot of people couldn't wait to forget. Just as the winter thaw was tantalizingly in sight, the words "COVID" and "coronavirus" were seeping into the public's consciousness. There's no need to recap what unfolded from there.

But however much it seemed this year was nothing but doom and gloom, a look back at our newspaper's pages from throughout 2020 tells a different story. There was uplifting and inspirational news to report each and every week. Neighbors helping neighbors. Communities rallying in support of various causes. Progress was evident in plans for the future.

Our education community was among those who refused to give in to the challenges. Various service organizations, including the Lions Clubs and Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, stepped up their programming and philanthropic efforts. Town government, from the back office folks who may have previously been taken for granted, to first responders who keep us safe, and the ever-cheerful Senior Center staffers continued to serve citizens.

Businesses and individuals of all ages rose to the occasion and did everything they could think of to accentuate the positive. It's through the collective efforts of all our communities that 2020 could be remembered more for what went right than what didn't, and we have no doubt that because of that spirit, 2021 will be a much better year.

With that, we present to you our year-end look back at the year that was:

### JANUARY

## 8th grader selected to ambassador post

In the month of January, Monson High School selected its Project 351 ambassador, eighth-grader Emily Roberts. Project 351 is a non-profit organization determined to develop the next generation of community-first leaders through service learning, hands-on commu-



Emily Roberts

nity building and value-based learning.

Roberts, who received the news from mathematics teacher Jill Carneglia, who said she was chosen based on her work ethic and dedication to everything she is involved in. "We are excited to have Emily represent our school in this amazing and honorable role."

Roberts outreach effort included assisting local catholic church St. Patrick's, group babysitting at community events and more. "It made me feel really good that someone recognized what I was doing," said Roberts. "Obviously, being recognized for your work is something you shouldn't look forward to, but sometimes it makes you feel good to reach a milestone in your community service or any other project."



## Program teaches teens financial literacy

In partnership with Palmer Public Library and Top Floor Learning Inc., North Brookfield Savings Bank gave local teenagers a chance to broaden their knowledge of financial literacy through a five-week course.

Young Adult Services Librarian Bridget Kennedy, who was responsible for helping put this course together, said she did so to make "life skills programs more available."

"Financial classes are very important, so I am very excited that they are offering them to teenagers," said Kennedy.

NBSB Branch Manager Jenn Plassmann from the Palmer branch and Supervisor, IRA Specialist and Bank Security Officer Joe Ribero from the Three Rivers branch taught the courses and were more than happy

to do so. "It's important, they're going to have to start opening their checking accounts and get debit cards very soon," said Plassmann.



## Non-profit boutique comes to Three Rivers

Thrifty Prom Boutique Second Time's a Charm co-founders Natalia Tulik and Michelle Anneckiarico announced their relocation from Ludlow to Three Rivers in the month of January. The nonprofit boutique offers a variety of dresses for teenage girls, interested in attending prom and homecoming from January to the end of May.

Although Tulip and Anneckiarico run the boutique, volunteers and local businesses including Pioneer Valley Financial Group, staff members at Bellamy Middle School, LUSO Federal Credit Union and more have offered their assistance to the co-founders. Reflecting on how far they have come, along with how many families they've helped, Tulik and Anneckiarico said they are happy with the boutique.

"There's pretty much nothing I don't love about the shop," said Tulik.

"It's magical. I love seeing how happy these young girls are leaving with the dress that they thought they would never be able to afford or even to attend prom with, we made that a reality."

### FEBRUARY



## Still-life with nature: Artist exhibits photos

Throughout the month of February, professional photographer May Adams hosted her first ever photo exhibit in the Palmer Public Library's community room.

Adam's style of photography is based on the concept of capturing the best still moments in nature and providing a window into the world of birds, for which she has a deep fascination for.

One of the photographs that she had on display was "Territorial Dispute," which showcased a hummingbird attempting to chase a bee from a flower it wanted to rest on. "When it was happening, I was freaking out, because it was an amazing thing to witness," said Adams. "The fact that I really managed to capture it was just amazing to me."

## Community leaders inspire Granite Valley students

On Feb. 13, Granite Valley School hosted a President's Day event. President's Steve Lowell (Monson Savings Bank), Gene Cassidy (Easter States Exposi-

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### SALUTE

## Brimfield hosts Wreaths Across America Day ceremony

By Jonah Snowden  
jsnowden@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – On Dec. 19, The town of Brimfield participated in Wreaths Across America Day for the first time at the Brimfield Cemetery.

This annual national event invites willing participants to coordinate a wreath-laying ceremony at a cemetery, where the gravestone of veterans are located. Manda Day, location coordinator for the town, was inspired to put this event together after attending other ceremonies and because her father, Joseph Pichierri, served in the Vietnam war. After taking the initiative to help Brimfield celebrate the national event, Day learned quickly how supportive the community is.

"It's has been an overwhelming success," she said.

"Our goal was to reach 361 [sponsored] wreaths, being a first year and I was hoping we would reach 180, which would be half of our veterans."

Throughout the ceremony, different groups or individuals from the Brimfield community or surrounding areas assisted with the event. Rev. Dawn Adams from the First Congregational of Brimfield, members of the



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden  
For the first time ever, the town of Brimfield participated in Wreaths Across America Day on Dec. 19.



During the ceremony, wreaths were laid in memory of all past and present U.S. service members representing all branches as well as those who became prisoners of Africa or were missing in action.

### HOLIDAY

## Santa's Grand Tour



The week before Christmas, Santa decided to make a pre-holiday visit and with the aid of police and fire department escorts, took a grand tour of Palmer. Here he is, circling around Junction Variety in the Thorndike community. Families gathered outside in anticipation of the jolly old elf's appearance and everyone gave Santa and his escorts a hearty cheer.

Turley Publications photos by Michael Harrison

WREATHS | page 2





## Schuelke to join Palmer Fire-Rescue

SPRINGFIELD – State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) Director David C. Evans announced the graduation of 27 members of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training Class #88, including Kristen Schuelke, who will join the Palmer Fire-Rescue Department.

The new graduates received certificates of completion on Dec. 12 at the Department of Fire Services' Springfield campus.

"First responders are on the frontlines protecting their communities and these newest firefighters are needed now more than ever," said MFA Director Evans.

"We have taken greater advantage of online learning technology, reduced group training size to increase social distancing, implemented screening, and required mask-wearing to keep our instructors and students as safe as possible during these uncertain times."

The MFA, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program, tuition-free.

The Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Training program is unique in that it delivers a standard recruit training curriculum, meeting national standards, on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in suburban and rural areas. Bringing the training closer to firefighters means more can participate. Pre-pandemic it already used



Courtesy photo

**Kristen Schuelke recently graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and will join the Palmer Fire-Rescue Department.**

an online eBlended format that has students doing more work outside of class and taking quizzes online. This allows students more time to practice training skills with instructors and to better control their own workloads and time commitments.

### Today's firefighters have diverse skills

Today's firefighters do far more than fight fires. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to a gas leak. They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice or who has locked himself in a bathroom. They rescue people from stalled elevators and those trapped in vehicle crashes.

They test and maintain their equipment, ranging from self-contained breathing apparatus to hydrants, hoses, power tools, and vehicles.

In this Massachusetts Firefighting Academy program, they learn all these skills and more from certified fire instructors who are also experienced firefighters. Students learn all the basic skills they need to respond to fires, to contain and to control them. They also receive training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, firefighter self-rescue, and vehicle extrication. The intensive program includes classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training and live firefighting practice.



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tion), Laurie Flynn (Link of Libraries), Christina Royal (Holyoke Community College) and Nate Costa (Springfield Thunderbirds) spoke to the students on how they became the leaders they are now.

When it was her chance to speak to students, Royal told them to find out what they enjoy do so since it will take them far in life. "Don't chase a job, but instead think about what you're good at, and what makes your heart feel good," said Royal "That will land you in the profession that you're best suited to provide your gifts to the world." Through the education system, Royal overcame her hardships and taught her to believe it's one of the most powerful tools that can change a life.

Costa talked to the students about not knowing what he wanted to do but had an interest in sports, which resulted in him helping sports organizations build their businesses for seven years, before becoming a president. He also said that these students should take chances, since they never know what it could lead to.



## New website, more revealed at annual Chamber dinner

On Feb. 18, the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual dinner at Amvets Post 74, where members and guests congregated and ate a delicious meal provided by Three Rivers Restaurant.

After the meal, Chamber President Roger Dugay provided the guests with updates on what the chamber is doing for the community. One of the announcements was that the chamber has a new website, intended to give will give businesses more attention. Also, the chamber's bylaws changed and from that point on, will have meetings take place on digital services such as Skype to accommodate younger people or with young children who can't get to the meetings.

Aside from Dugay, Palmer Police Chief Christopher Burns announced former police chief John J. Janulewicz is joining the Board of Directors and Town Manager Ryan McNutt discussed the "N.I.C.E Task Force," which was officially instituted on Jul. 17, 2019.

## MARCH

## Guest readers make literacy fun at Quarry Hill

Quarry Hill's Early Childhood Center and Granite Valley celebrated the national holiday titled "Read Across America Day," on Monday, Mar. 2.

Read Across America, which is a resource provided by the National Education Association and has been established to motivate children of all ages to indulge in literature. Mary Cieplik, director of curriculum and Instruction for the central business office of Monson Public Schools said she wanted the Monson schools to participate in the national event for the first time, because of how beneficial it would be to the students.



"We're always trying to develop the love of reading in students, so we thought it would be great to build some excitement around reading by having some guests readers from different areas of our community," said Cieplik.

Books that were chosen for this event included "The Invisible Boy," by Trudy Ludwig, "Bats at the Library" by Brian Lies, The "Girl Who Never Made Mistakes," by Mark Petit and Gary Rubinstein, and "The Perfect Pet," by Margie Palatini.

## Pathfinder celebrates long-serving teacher



Mark Thompson

On Mar. 12, the Journal Register announced that former Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School social studies teacher Mark Thompson was retiring.

Over the course of 31 years, Thompson has taught 3,500 students and have seen them have children and continue to acknowledge him as his teacher. Also, having experience as a stand-up comedian and magician came into play when teaching his students. By showcasing these skills, he said he taught his students that there is "magic in the world out there," and to keep their eyes open to "appreciate everything that's out there."

A few goals that Thompson said he is working on accomplishing in retirement included writing a biography of the late Magician Don Viano titled "Viva Vaino," and a book from the notebooks he kept of his students' quotes. Also, he said he is working on his hypnosis license.

## Pizzeria owner reflects on decade in business

On March 5, the Journal Register helped Paramount Pizza 3 owner Ali Bolok celebrate his pizza shop reaching 10 years in business.

Bolok moved to America from Turkey in 1987 and began worked in a pizza shop that same year, which gave him the experience and interest to pursue his career as a business owner. This determination gave him not just a shop in Palmer, but in Holyoke and Springfield as well.

"I love to make pizza," said Bolok. "It's why I've been doing this for a long time."

He also said the reason why everyone should give Paramount Pizza a chance is because he uses the best ingredients forms pies, grinders, fried dough and calzones.

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Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden

**Following the conclusion of the Wreaths Across America Day ceremony, attendees distributed wreaths to the veteran's gravestone.**

## WREATHS ■ from page 1

Brimfield Boy Scouts, trumpet player Bob Frydryk, who played "Taps," and more lent a helping hand in the ceremony.

Following the ceremony's con-

clusion, attendees each pick up a wreath and walked through the cemetery to place it on a veteran's gravestone.

Attendees such as U.S. Army National Guard for Massachusetts Medic Michael McKenny was hap-

py to be a part of the ceremony and grateful for the opportunity to honor the fallen.

"It's important to remember," said McKenny. "It's important for the families [of the fallen] too."

## Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

## DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.



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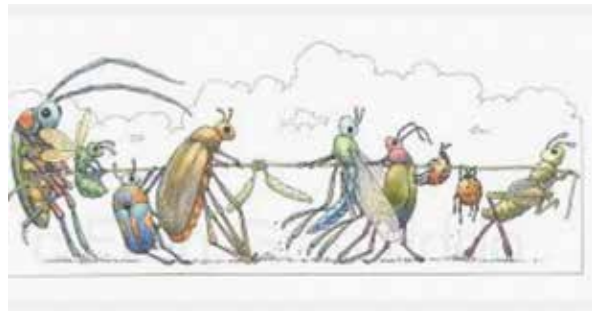
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## APRIL



## Bugs are People Too – and free!

To help keep people occupied during the COVID-19 pandemic, local artist Fran Gianfriddo allowed anyone to print out and color some of his images from is “Bugs are People Too” series for free.

The series is series Gianfriddo has been writing for over 12 years, which was an idea that came from a time he was sitting the grass, watching leaves fall from the trees and wondering what would happen if a bug fell on a falling leaf. Gianfriddo said he believes this opportunity provided a fun little distraction for children and adults.

“While all of these kids are stuck at home, you got so many other people out there. All of these doctors and nurses and first responders that are doing something, and you feel kind of helpless when you are sitting in your house, not really being able to help at all,” said Gianfriddo. “So (he and his wife Sandy Gianfriddo) thought that this was doing something, as little as it is.”



## Take-out orders help restaurants survive

Local restaurants that remained open for business during the COVID-19 pandemic took the necessary precautions to ensure their customers’ safety.

Apollo 1 Pizza in Palmer for example, was open seven days a week and was offering takeout at the time. Manager Deonna Gamache said their takeout orders have increased since the pandemic began.

“There has definitely been an increase in takeout orders, because we don’t have the dining room,” said Gamache. “We’re obviously still not making as much as we used to do, being a dining and takeout restaurant, but we are still getting a lot of takeout business.”

Beth’s Family Dining in Monson was also open and was offering takeout orders which was also in high demand, according to owner Beth Brown. She also said while working, herself and other staff members were wearing gloves and cleaning the work environment. “We clean all day, that’s all we do when we don’t have customers,” said Brown.

## ‘Trying to help in any way’

In support of Palmer High School’s Class of 2020, Palmer resident and photographer Betsy Martinez-Chacon created lawn signs for the 82 graduates. Her husband, Roberto Chacon, co-owner of Chacon Trucking LLC sponsored the cost of the project, along with her business, BMC Photography.

Martinez-Chacon said she understood what the students were going through and hoped they appreciated the signs and took pride in reaching the finish line that took four years to cross.

“I feel devastated, and this is why I wanted to honor them,” said Chacon.

“I know that they’re missing out on a lot and are



Betsy Martinez-Chacon

heartbroken. It’s just a shame and I thought that this would be the best way to recognize them, and to show them support and let them know we’re thinking about them.”

Chacon had similar sentiments.

“I just hope that they know that we know they’re missing out on a lot and we’re there to support them and let them know that they’re not alone,” said Chacon. “Whether the case is that they have the graduation or not, they always have support, but in the bad pandemic that we’re in now, everybody feels left out. So, I’m just trying to do my best to help out in any way.”



## Car parade boosts spirits in Monson

Staff members at Monson Public Schools District hosted a reverse parade at Quarry Hill Community School. While practicing social distancing, the parade served as a way to spread optimism to the Monson community in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Cheryl A. Clarke, Superintendent at Monson Public Schools, said she was grateful for every staff member that participated.

## May



It was announced that Palmer High School School-to-Career Facilitator Karen Anti selected her Outstanding Student-Mentor Team – senior Cassandra Florence and Animal Control Officer Sydney Plante.

Florence obtained her Work-Based Learning/Internship experience at the Palmer Animal Control Department under the mentorship of Plante.

“I’ve been caring for animals my whole life and when the opportunity came up to intern with Sydney, it was something I did not want to miss out on,” said Florence.

One thing Florence said she learned about this career field is that “you have to be confident and vocal.”

“Many times, you have to call the shots when it comes to the health of an animal in our care – you can’t be indecisive because you have to do what is best for the animal,” said Florence.



## Fresh produce, from the ground up

To continue the annual tradition of opening a farm stand to sell the freshest fruits and vegetables to the public, Family Produce and Market owner Gidget Jolly opened it in front of her house instead.

Jolly networks with over 42 local farms all year around. She also said by operating the farm stand, she realized the importance of knowing how food is grown and harvested.

“It’s unlike anything you could imagine when you start doing it, and just seeing the whole process is just amazing,” said Jolly. “It’s something I’ve learned to appreciate more coming from the city to a rural area.”



## Boosters laud Palmer’s Class of 2020

Staff from Palmer High School, Demore’s Automotive co-owner Jay Demote, and others held a parade to congratulate the class of 2020.

Palmer Untied Booster Club President Melissa Petrasiewicz and fellow members Shelley Letendre, Stacey Warren, Addie Bernard, and parents of seniors helped put the parade together.

“We were just trying to come up with an idea that would allow us to celebrate our PHS seniors,” said Letendre. “We wanted to try to make our seniors feel special in a time when they have lost so much.”

Each senior that the participating members of the parade dropped off throughout the day received balloons, a gift card for a large one-topping pizza from Domino’s in Palmer and more. PHS Principal Susan North said it the parade special because of how different members of the community came together to congratulate the seniors.

“It’s an amazing feeling, how the community came together for the seniors,” said North. “They have worked so hard for their education, and this is a real tough time for everyone, but the spirit that the community has to support the kids is just incredible.”

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## June



## Pathfinder’s Class of 2020 gets the spotlight

Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School hosted the Class of 2020’s official graduation which had many safety measures to ensure the social distancing protocol was in place. More than a 150 grads-to-be waited with family in their vehicles until it was their time to walk across the stage. Five students at a time would make their way to the right side of the graduation area while their immediate family would walk onto the left side and congratulate them and take a celebratory photo.

Principal and Assistant Superintendent Eric Duda was very pleased with the graduation and praised staff members for their work.

“One of the things that makes me most proud about Pathfinder is the dedicated staff and administrative team, and everybody that works with the school – we’ve done everything possible to try to make this as special a day as it can be,” said Duda. “I will work tirelessly as everybody else would on our staff for the kids. I think this is just the least we could do at this time for them.”



## Free services for students

After hair salons were permitted to operate again, Briana Salerno, owner of Beauty by Briana, reopened her business and offered free services to local high school seniors. She was empathetic over the cancellation of prom this year because of the pandemic.

“I just figured that it would be a nice thing to do, considering the fact that they spent so much money on these dresses, and aren’t going to be able to wear them,” said Salerno.

“I was in their position before, and prom was something that I really looked forward to, and it just would’ve been really difficult for me if I couldn’t go. I’m not doing it to make myself look good or anything, but because they’re my friends.”

Salerno also received assistance from Brittney Moynahan, independent stylist at Tranquility Central, and Nissa Lempart, owner of Monson Optical. Moynahan reached out to her, offering to donate anything that she could use and offering help with services free of charge. Lempart also donated money to help Salerno purchase necessary supplies.

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# Viewpoints

## Yes, Virginia. There is a Santa Claus!

No one could have realized it back in 1897, but that's when the New York Sun published what was to become an iconic part of local journalism history. The Sun printed what is now the most widely read letter to a newspaper. It was sent by an 8-year-old New York City girl named Virginia O'Hanlon. The response to her letter by editorial writer Francis Pharcellus Church is a message of love, magic and hope. Considering this past year, we imagine many readers could use a generous serving of that next to a plate of Christmas cookies. So, here is the full text of that historic letter:

Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old.  
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.  
Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so."

Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10 thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## Memories bring you home again

This will be the first year in many decades that I won't celebrate Christmas with my siblings. I am certain that many of you are in the same boat, so to speak. While we are all doing what we can to slow the spread of the virus, it doesn't always come easy. Reflecting back on the Christmases of my childhood conjure up so many wonderful memories; many of them involving plants of one kind or another. Read on for some McQuaid nostalgia.

I'd start bugging my dad around Halloween to visit the local tree farm to tag our Christmas tree. Lucky for me he knew the owners, so when we knocked on the door in late October we were handed a tag and a grease pen without so much as a strange glance. I was very particular about my tree, that is why we "tagged" so early. It had to be on the tall side, but stout. Not perfect, by any means; there had to be "holes" in which to put the houses and the bird's nests. It seemed, though, that we always picked the first coldest day of the year. Dad's bum finger would be blue, but no matter, he'd humor me as I'd circle the tree farm from front to back at least twice to get the "best" tree.

Fast forward to the day after Thanksgiving when my parents and older siblings home from college or work would trek up into the woods, passing by the "cellar hole" ending up by the "big rock." With garbage bags in hand we'd pick Princess Pine, enough to make a wreath for our door, and one each for the other kids to take back with them. This was a grand adventure for a small child. It seemed as if we were in no man's land, although we were likely less than a quarter of a mile from home! When we were sure we had enough we'd head back down the hill, and dad would get right to work. I can still picture him on the back porch bending a coat hanger into a circle, attaching some wire and reaching into the bag of greens to gather up bunches and attach them to the frame. He used to do such a good job that you couldn't tell where he started or finished and you could use either side of the wreath; both looked the

same! Mom would add a red bow, some fake berries and a pine cone or two and off it went to New Jersey, New York or wherever education and destination took my brothers and sister.

Another early Christmas memory was of a white pine Christmas tree my next oldest brother decorated for his room. It was tiny, and a real "Charlie Browner" but as a little kid I thought it was really cool how he made the ornament by rolling tiny Styrofoam balls in glitter then decorating them with ric rac. The coffee can filled with sand as his "stand" was pretty cool too. When I mentioned the tree to him just recently he had forgotten all about it.

One especially fond remembrance is of my babi's Christmas cactus ablaze in blooms on a plant stand in my mother's room. I ended up with the plant as well as its stand. And although I rarely achieve the fireworks babi or my mother did, this year I did have a dozen or so of the fuchsia-colored flowers, starting around Thanksgiving and continuing to Christmas. The plant is mostly in good shape for being close to a century old!

I have children of my own now and it's fun to intersperse our new traditions with some from my own childhood. Right after Thanksgiving I make a wreath for a friend's birthday. And although I don't drag my husband to the tree farm in October, I do make him circle the farm a few times to make sure we find the perfect tree.

Whatever your memories are, share them, and if the mood suits you, write them down for your kids and grandkids to enjoy.

Merry Christmas!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

### IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid  
Columnist

## Letters to the Editor

### The spring is a public treasure

I drove past the spring in Monson on High St below Flynt Park and was horrified to see that it was for sale. I always thought it was part of Flynt Park and public land. I found out from someone knowledgeable about the history of the town that that once it did belong to the town.

Why on God's Earth did they ever sell it! What were they thinking?

The owner of the land must have been very generous to let anyone who wanted to drive up there and fill endless bottles of water from the spring. I don't know who is responsible for the set up: the rubber pipe, the grill, the path, but it has been a Godsend to so many who don't trust their town water. The town water stains my tub, so I wonder, "What he heck is in it!?"

This is water I could trust. There's nothing up hill that could contaminate it.

It is a treasure and shouldn't be taken from us. I don't know how we can keep it for public use. Could the town buy the property? Could we start a Go Fund Me to buy up the property for the town, the state, or some other conservation group?

I heard from the people at Echo Hill Orchards that everyone in Monson is a buzz about it. It would be criminal if that property ended up in the possession of some humongous trophy home with a long driveway and a slew of "No Trespassing" signs and an oversized septic system that would contaminate it.

This is a treasure.

There's always many people there, especially since the COVID crisis. Somehow all these people, me included, have to find a way to fund the purchase of that land for public use. If someone would put an impenetrable metal donation box there with a sign, "Save our Spring." We have to do something to save this for everyone.

Too much has been taken from us. Let's at least save this. This is what eminent domaine should be used for.

Charlotte Burns  
Palmer



### Boomer

Boomer, wearing his best Christmas sweater, sits in the lap of Maya Rodriguez of Three Rivers. Maya and Boomer at both nine years old. Boomer is super sweet and LOVES getting dressed up in different outfits.

Each week we will showcase readers' pets here in print and on our Facebook page. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Maybe you're looking to re-home a pet or find a foster home. All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com).

## Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-283-1977 or emailed to [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

## Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:  
**The Journal Register  
Letter to the Editor  
24 Water St.,  
Palmer MA 01069,  
or by e-mail to:  
[mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com)**

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

## It is time to show our resilience

By Lee H. Hamilton  
Guest columnist

If you pay attention to global affairs, you know that increasing numbers of people believe U.S. leadership in the world is coming to an end and the West more broadly is being eclipsed. I think these predictions are exaggerated, but they are not without some basis. Our challenges have grown. It is time for us to re-establish ourselves by showing our capacity for change and adaptation.

The biggest external challenge we face, of course, is the rise of China and the competition it offers to the democratic model. It is not just that its wealth, military power, and leverage around the world have all grown. It is also true that China has had an astonishing rise, pulling millions of people out of poverty, drawing attention for its innovation and infrastructure development, and building one of the world's leading economies.

This is an important point. You do not build prestige abroad by collapsing at home. In a very real sense, you cannot separate domestic and foreign policy, especially when you are the U.S. The world pays close attention to how we deal with internal

problems, and our actions within our borders profoundly affect our standing and leverage as we assert global leadership. So how do we reenergize our global role? We begin, of course, at home, by bringing the pandemic under control, reinvigorating our own economy, and recommitting to the rule of law, to basic, long-established democratic processes, and to the core values of justice, fairness, and opportunity for all our citizens.

Then, I would argue, we need to return to the basics, which have taken a beating in recent years. We built our preeminence by using an international approach during the post-World War II period, working skillfully with European and other allies to lead the West. If we try to lead by ourselves, the task is far more difficult than if we join with European allies, Japan, other Asian countries, and allies in South America and elsewhere.

We also must restore basic democratic values—promotion of democracy, treating people decently, opposing corruption and abuse of human rights—to a prominent role in our foreign policy. Effective foreign policy requires a lot of components, but the moral dimension is key to making our leadership more attractive and

more potent.

Obviously, American military power is part of our strength. People pay attention to us in no small part because of that power. But they also pay attention because of our willingness to work with others. In order to enhance our appeal, we need a well-functioning national security system with expanded arms control agreements. We have to counter Iran wherever and whenever possible in a manner that does not risk war in the Middle East. And we must identify and oppose the world's bad actors by exposing their weaknesses, corruption, and dictatorial tendencies.

I would also argue that we need to lead the fight on climate change. All the other issues we face are important, but this one is existential, and we do not have much time to get it right.

Finally, to help the U.S. revitalize its place in the world, we will need strong, capable, realistic and professional officials filling the key roles. That is true in the intelligence community, where unbiased and clear-eyed knowledge of events and other leaders is vital if we are to navigate the course of events and work with (or against) world leaders. And it is true in diplomacy, economics, the national

security apparatus and elsewhere, where depth, knowledge and expertise are vital. To be blunt, we have become less respected for our competence, professionalism, and skill over the last four years, and while experts can sometimes become too narrowly focused, highly-regarded representatives abroad can be among the biggest assets we deploy.

It used to be that, in any international forum, it was almost instinctive to turn to the U.S. for leadership: the first question on the minds of allies was what the U.S. thought and planned to do. That is less often the case, and I do not think the world is better off as a result. We have a lot of work to do to reassert our leadership, starting with strengthening our own democracy.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

### PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Journal Register, please email [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com).

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sweet” moment.

“We wish it all was the way it always is, but we’re happy to do it what we can for the kids and it’s great to see them and have the closure,” said Metzger.

Students, including Matthew Dagenais, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to partake in a physical graduation.

“Overall, I think it’s a good thing,” Dagenais said.

“Personally, I’m not one to embrace a lot of the normal traditions, so I wasn’t really bothered all that much with things being cancelled, though I can empathize with a lot of the other students and how horrible it must have been for them to have to miss out on a lot of things that was promised to them.”

## SEPTEMBER

### Daughter follows mom into healthcare

Even before attending Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, recent graduate Natalyse Colon had an interest of working in the healthcare field. Colon was inspired by her mother, former Certified Nursing Assistant Velysia Velez.

During her mom’s time as a CNA, Colon heard stories of what it was like working in the field, which piqued interest. While attending Pathfinder from 2016 to 2020, Colon said her clinical exam and other related classes from Pathfinder’s Health Assistant Program gave her the necessary experience and skills to obtain her CNA license in 2019.

“It definitely helped in a lot of ways,” Colon a little over a year later. “I got more of a feeling of what to do for my exam.”

Colon began her career with Life Care Center, a nursing home and rehabilitation facility in Wilbraham.



Natalyse Colon

### Local police get love on statewide tour

Ten-year-old Dakota Matthews has been on a mission since 2017 to visit every police department in the state. That tour included Palmer and Brimfield. Matthews, a resident of Haverhill, had a seizure caused by a fall at age four. When she woke up, she was surrounded by police; that’s when her love for police started, according to a 2018 article in the North Andover Eagle Tribune newspaper. At the time the article was published, when Matthews was just eight years old, she had visited 57 departments, and said she hopes to visit the rest in the state by the time she turns 13.

Matthews and her mother visited the Palmer police and took photos with officers.

“We feel privileged to be able to help Dakota in her journey to meet a police officer in every city and town of Massachusetts,” the Palmer Police Department wrote on its Facebook page. “Dakota is on a mission to visit all 351 police departments across the state to show her appreciation and support for the police. We are number 194. Thank you to Dakota and her mom for all that they do support Police. YOU ARE OUR HERO DAKOTA!”

After visiting several more area departments, including Springfield, Granby, Belchertown, Ware and others, Matthews and her mother made stop No. 205 at the Brimfield Police Department.

“Number 205, Brimfield Police Department – when you can’t find the PD because the GPS brings you to their old station, you just stop and ask for help,” Matthews’ mother wrote in a Facebook post. Thank you Officer Demetrian for being at the right place at the right time and giving mom great directions!”



Massachusetts Lions District Zone 6 Chairperson Donald Fortin, and CST Curt Jameson met with Chief of Police Bryan Haughey to present 25 face shields to the Holland Police Department.

### Lions donate protective gear

With a grant from the Lions Club International Foundation, Massachusetts Lions District 33A Leadership partnered with the Harvard Lions Club and many other local District 33A Lions Clubs in a service initiative to manufacture and distribute 1,500 high quality, NIH-approved face shields for community first responders and frontline workers.

“The Lions motto is ‘We serve,’ so it is an honor to assist those who serve at-risk populations in the towns

comprising and surrounding our district,” club members said.

“If you want to make new friends while having fun and serving your local community, check out your local Lions Club for their fundraising and service events. Our club members are all volunteers and our clubs are part of Lions Clubs International (LCIF) which is a non-profit organization. Every donation made to LCIF is applied toward our global programs.”

## OCTOBER



One of many fun and educational activities at the Holland Senior Center.



Making “Quirky Turkeys” at the Palmer Senior Center.

### Senior centers get creative to keep programs going

While many local senior centers have had to adjust programming and cancel classes during these unprecedented times which have left many senior citizens isolated, local senior centers and specifically their councils on aging are continuing to provide services.

At the Holland Community Center, Director Brenda Palmer said although they’ve had to cancel in-person classes, they’ve remained open and found creative ways to offer programming.

“We’re open a few less hours at the office, but we’re doing remote stuff,” Palmer said. “We’re doing some outdoor classes and a couple of indoor things. We’ll do a movie inside with everybody who has to pre-register for everything, so that we have 10 people or less.”

She also said they have curbside lunches on Mondays and Wednesdays, kayaking opportunity at the Hamilton Reservoir and one weekend they had musicians Amanda Meli and Tony Valley perform for a few seniors who may have been suffering from their isolation during the pandemic.

During the month of October, Palmer said the center planned on doing more of the same.

“We’re one of the fortunate centers that can do that,” said Palmer. “The big room is the only room we’d be using, and it would be 10 people or less.” She also said they will do contact tracing, to ensure the safety of all seniors. For more information on the services

provided by Holland Community Center, call 413-245-3163.

At the Monson Senior Center, council on aging director Lori Stacy said they continued offering home-bound meals, transportation and an occasional outdoor coffee and conversation. For more information, call 413-245-3163.



A tyke shows off his strength as he places a pumpkin he picked at Westview Farm Creamery into to his family’s wagon.

### Family fun for fall at Westview Farms

Westview Farms Creamery on 109 East Hill Road hosted the public for an array of fun family activities to celebrate fall. There was pumpkin picking, a corn maze, wagon rides, goats you can feed, live music, and a wide variety of the best homemade ice cream (including of course) pumpkin and pumpkin varieties), as well as hot



food and beer and wine.

**Celebrating 80 years of Rondeau’s ice cream in Palmer are (from left), Palmer Town Councilman, Bob Lavoie, Rachel Rondeau, state Rep. Todd Smola, Michael Rondeau, and state Sen. Anne Gobi.**

### Rondeau’s honored for 80 years of sweet business

Celebrating ice cream outside in Massachusetts in the middle of October might seem counterintuitive. But this was a special occasion.

Alvin Rondeau’s Dairy Bar on Ware Street is not only a treasured local institution but an example of entrepreneurship and perseverance. It’s where generations of young people earned a wage for the first time. Consider that when Rondeau’s opened in 1940, the country was still in the grip of the Great Depression. Since then, it’s survived through World War II, natural disasters, periods of economic upheaval, more major wars, and now a pandemic.

Through it all, the Rondeau family never failed to open that window every season, serving residents and visitors and creating lasting memories – and the owners plan many more years’ worth to come. In October, state Rep. Todd Smola and state Sen. Anne Gobi presented Rondeau’s with a special citation celebrating the milk bar’s 80 years in business and its status as a local treasure. Palmer Town Councilman Bob Lavoie was on-hand for the presentation.

Michael Rondeau, whose grandfather Alvin opened the shop that became a family legacy, said it all started on the family farm in Palmer.

“He came down off the farm and he started the ice cream business and the other brothers went into the dairy business and worked it through the years at different times,” he said.

Eventually, they branched out, but the Palmer shop grew the deepest roots.



Troop 164 Scouts Peter and Thomas Traugh assisted Aidan Day fixing up dugouts in Burleigh Park.

### Refurbishing boyhood park Scout’s labor of love

It took a lot of hard work, but Boy Scout Troop 164 gained itself a new potential Eagle Scout. Troop 164 member Aidan Day finished his Eagle Scout project last fall, which was refurbishing three dugouts in Burleigh Park. He reached out to local businesses, including Allied Flooring and Panting Corp., Luke’s Beer & Wine



Dakota Matthews decided to visit every police department in Massachusetts to show her love and appreciation and her stops in this region included Palmer and Brimfield. She’s shown here in Palmer.

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## SOCCKER

# Soccer changes affected approach to game

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

REGION—The MIAA made several rule changes to the sport of soccer this past fall due to COVID-19.

It took a couple of matches for the players, coaches, and referees to get used to the new modified rules.

"It did take some time for the players to get used to the new rules. We're hoping to go back to soccer without modifications next year," said Monson girls' varsity soccer coach Eric Degnan. "The players deserve a lot of credit. You also have to give the referees a lot of credit as well. It wasn't very easy for them either."



File photos

Girls soccer adjusted to the modified rules of soccer, which included no throw-ins and goalies could not punt over the half line.



Boys soccer had to do without head balls, a big part of the attack game.

Granby girls varsity soccer coach Robert Weaver was happy his players had the opportunity to play some matches this fall.

"The girls were very happy just to be getting together, practicing and playing soccer while following the modifications," Weaver said. "At Granby, we had great backing from the school's administration, school committee, and health department."

One of the rule changes was the elimination of throw-ins. When the ball crossed the touchline, the restart was a kick-in, which was the same as an indirect kick. The ball was placed on the spot on the touchline where the ball went out of bounds or behind it.

Ludlow boys' varsity soccer coach Greg Kolodziej really didn't mind the elimination of throw-ins.

"We have benefitted over the

years from having a player who could throw it far," Kolodziej said. "You could create more scoring chances on more restarts with the kick-in."

There were also no head balls allowed.

"I think the rule change that affected the game the most was elimination of head balls. I've never seen so many well-executed shoulder balls in my life," Kolodziej added. "But there were a lot of good scoring chances missed by all the teams due to not being allowed to head the ball."

Players were not allowed to make intentional physical contact with an opposing player.

"We always stress the importance of not committing reckless and needless fouls," Kolodziej said. "If the health situation is under control, I do think all the modified rules will be changed back next season."

Goalkeepers weren't allowed to kick, punt dropkick, or throw the ball in the air beyond the midfield line.

If the ball did travel in the air beyond the midfield line without touching a player, the resulting re-

start was an indirect kick for the opposing team from the spot it crossed the midfield.

"I strongly disliked the rule where the goalie could not punt, or goal kick the ball over half," said Ware boys varsity soccer coach Jesse Trzpit. "To me, it didn't make a lot of sense to begin with, I didn't see how it benefitted anyone's safety and it also took a large advantage away from our team. Our starting goalie consistently kicks the ball over half which gives us an opportunity to move the ball up field more so than other ways. Our back-up goalie also has the ability to do this."

All of the high school soccer matches were played in four ten-minute quarters instead of two twenty minutes halves.

A couple of the other rule changes were corner kicks were indirect kicks, no timeouts will be allowed, and there were no rebounds allowed on penalty kicks. Coaches, players and referees wore masks during the game.

Everyone is hoping to have a normal high school soccer season in the fall of 2021.

## PVIAC

# Several unknowns for winter sports season

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – In Western Massachusetts, winter sports are scheduled to begin in early January, but that is pending the creation of a new schedule and the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference forming geographic "bubble" leagues for basketball and hockey, as well as swimming.

In November, the PVIAC agreed to go ahead with winter sports, but made a number of rulings:

- Compete in a bubble that will limit contact with fewer athletes (schools).
- Start date for winter sports January 4, 2021 through February 20, 2021
- The scheduled amount of games will be: Team sports (Basketball, Swimming, Ice Hockey) 10-12 Skiing 5-6 contest
- No independent varsity contests, only those given by schedulers.
- Spectators for Indoor Games TBD.
- Out of season coaching: There will be no out of season coaching during the Winter Season
- Strongly recommend no captains practices.

With the recent rollout of a vaccine as well as a second one now in the pipeline that could accelerate the vaccination process, it is unclear if decisions made about fans will be revisited at some point.

Another decision that must be made is what schools will be participating in the winter season. Changes that have already been made for the season include the addition of Southwick to the winter ranks. Southwick's

school committee did not allow the school to participate in the fall season, but has agreed to support the winter season. Southwick has boys and girls basketball as well as ice hockey.

Belchertown, while it will allow swimming and basketball, hockey is not being allowed due to the fact the UMass practice rink, their home ice, is not available. Belchertown's school committee confirmed other options for Belchertown would be in communities that currently in the red status for being labeled "high-risk" for COVID-19 spread. Belchertown is one of the towns not allowed to play other schools that have the red designation.

Holyoke High School, which ceased its fall season on Oct. 21, is set to participate in the winter season with basketball and swimming, but can only do so if it gets out of the red by Dec. 24 and remains out of the red until the season starts in January. It is possible the school will start late.

Other changes and decisions are still pending, though many schools have already opted to participate.

Pathfinder will participate in winter sports, but must find another venue due to the fact their gymnasium is currently being used as a cafeteria.

While the PVIAC has not made an official ruling on whether fans will be allowed in arenas, the MIAA's current guidance is to allow up to 40 percent of a gymnasium's capacity. However, the number of game participants (players, coaches, officials, etc.) count toward that 40 percent. Some schools, like the fall, could bar fans altogether in an effort to lower the spread while the current surge is still on.

## HIGH SCHOOL

# Pathfinder approved for winter sports, but lack home court

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—After dealing with no COVID-19 related issues during the recently completed fall sports season, the athletic department at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School is planning on having a winter sports season.

"All of our student-athletes were very excited to get back on the field again this fall with their friends and coaches," said Pathfinder Athletic Director Joe Baldyga during the school committee meeting held on December 16. "We did manage to get through the fall season without any COVID related incidents regarding athletics."

Following a lengthy discussion, the Pathfinder school committee did pass a motion to allow the winter sports season to go on as scheduled.

The Pioneers boys' and girls' basketball teams are scheduled to play about ten games against neighboring high schools. However, none of those games will be taking place inside the Pathfinder gymnasium, which is currently being used as a cafeteria.

"It would be very difficult for us to host any basketball games due to the circumstances our gym is in right now," Baldyga said. "We're planning on playing games at our opponent's gyms. We'll also be holding practices at outside venues."

Wrestling is normally another winter sport held at Pathfinder, but that sport was moved by the MIAA to the newly created Fall II season.

A committee member did ask Baldyga about the possibility of moving basketball to the Fall

II season, which is slated to run from late February until the end of April.

"Most high schools in the area are trying to get the winter sports season in during the traditional winter season," Baldyga said. "The MIAA did move wrestling to Fall II. If we also moved basketball to that season, I'm not sure there would be any teams for us to compete against at that point. We would need three or four other schools to compete against during the Fall II season."

The first practice of the high school basketball season is scheduled to take place on January 11. The season is slated to end on March 1 without a postseason tournament being held.

"It'll be about half of a regular basketball season," Baldyga added. "We'll also be playing opponents similar to those our soccer teams played in the fall."

The teams in the Pathfinder basketball bubble are scheduled to be Palmer, Ware, Monson, and Hampden Charter.

The Lady Pioneers, who are coached by Kevin Aldrich, finished with a 12-9 overall record a year ago. Their season came to an end following a loss at Franklin Tech in a Western Mass. Division 4 tournament. The girls' varsity hoop team did squeak out an exciting 36-35 home win over Hampden Charter last January. They didn't face either Palmer, Monson, or Ware.

The Pathfinder boys' varsity basketball squad, who's coached by David Oliveira, won a total of seven games last winter. They did face Monson twice and Hampden Charter once, which were all losses.

## PAYING IT FORWARD



Submitted photos

Despite the pandemic conditions, the Springfield Thunderbirds still held its annual teddy bear drive.

# T-Birds announce massive teddy bear donation

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds' Foundation is pleased to announce a donation of over 1,000 teddy bears and stuffed animals to local charitable partners, the culmination of a successful Drive-Thru Teddy Bear Toss presented by Teddy Bear Pools & Spas, that was held on Saturday, Dec. 12 outside of the MassMutual Center in downtown Springfield.

This morning, the Thunderbirds' mascot Boomer, along with staff members, made deliveries of hundreds of stuffed animals to Square One, Center for Human Development (CHD), Boys and Girls Club of Springfield, and the Boys

& Girls Club, Family Center in Springfield.

"Our holiday celebrations are looking much different this year, but the Springfield Thunderbirds have proven that with a bit of creativity and careful planning, the children in our community can still experience the magic of the season," says Kristine Allard, Vice President of Development & Communications, Square One. "We are so grateful to Nate Costa and the entire Thunderbirds community for keeping the tradition of the Teddy Bear Toss alive. Our children will be overjoyed!"

T-BIRDS | page 2

## AUTO RACING

# Claremont to host Granite Pro Stock Series

WALPOLE, N.H. – Granite State Pro Stock Series officials announced on Thursday a 15-race schedule for the 2021 race season. The slate will bring drivers to three different New England states -- while visiting eight different tracks in one of the most complete schedules the series has ever offered for teams and fans.

The calendar is headlined by the annual Newport Chevrolet 150 at Claremont Motorsports Park, this time on Saturday, July 31 -- a \$10,000 to win show that is sure to draw the top Super Late Model talent in the region. The series will also make a debut at one of New England's most historic tracks and return to multiple staple facilities, with a mix of flat and banked tracks planned.

"We're thrilled with the way our schedule came together for the 2021 season," Mike Parks, president of the Granite State Pro Stock Series, said. "We always strive to get 14-16 races and we were able to accomplish it again. We think our competitors and fans will enjoy it."

The season starts with the big debut in Connecticut. Granite State teams will compete at Stafford Motor Speedway for the first time as part of the annual NAPA Spring Sizzler weekend on Saturday, April 24 -- a one-day show. Pro Stocks are no stranger to the Arute-owned facility -- having run

as a weekly division for decades -- but now, the touring stars will invade to compete with some of the local talent that are sure to find themselves a ride.

"To say we are thrilled to finally bring the Granite State Pro Stock Series to Stafford would be an understatement," Parks said. "This will be the icing on the cake to kick-off the Greatest Race in the History of the Spring, the annual NAPA Spring Sizzler. It's going to be an amazing event for our series and the track both."

Following Stafford, just one week later, Monadnock Speedway will host their first of two series events on Sunday afternoon, May 2 as part of their season-opening Spring Dash weekend. Post-time for this event is 2 p.m., with the NHSTRA Modifieds, NELCAR Legends and more also on the card. A second stop at "Mad Dog" is slated for Saturday, September 4 as part of Labor Day weekend at the Winchester, New Hampshire, oval.

The series heads to Bobby Webber's Star Speedway for the first of two stops on Saturday night, May 8, before a return to the Star Classic weekend on Friday, September 17 comes in the thick of the championship battle. Last year, Derek Griffith and Joey Pole put together one of the best

RACING | page 2

PATHFINDER | page 2







## DEATH NOTICES

**Elizabeth M. Dorsey, 91**  
Died: Dec. 15, 2020

**William Charles Shaw, 70**  
Died:  
Dec. 17, 2020  
Services to be held at a future date

## The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

## O B I T U A R I E S

### Elizabeth M. Dorsey, 91

BONDSVILLE — Elizabeth M. Dorsey, 91, passed away Dec. 15, 2020.

She was born on June 13, 1929, in Palmer to the late John and Josephine (Janos) Pobieglo.

Raised in Three Rivers, Elizabeth later moved to Bonds-ville after her marriage to her late husband, Wilfred A. Dorsey, who predeceased her in 1983. Elizabeth dedicated her life as a homemaker for her three children, whom she loved dearly. In more recent years, she worked at Rondeau's Dairy Bar, Bonds-ville Dairy Bar and Capital Cleaner's in Palmer. She was a devout Catholic and member of Divine Mercy Parish. In her leisure, Elizabeth

enjoyed baking for friends and family, tending to her yard and planting flowers in her gardens.

Besides her parents and late husband, Elizabeth was preceded in death by her siblings, Joseph, Anna, Walter, Stanislaw, Stanley, Aloysius, and Felix; and by her great-grandson, Brandon Riley. She will be dearly missed by her sisters, Claudia Tomaszewski and Anna Irene Perlik. As well as her children; daughter, Linda Midura and her husband Patrick; daughter, Diane Gomes and her husband Tony; and son,



Michael Dorsey and his wife Diane. She also leaves five grandchildren: Laurie, Tracy, Valerie, Shaun, and Christopher; nine great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass was held Dec. 21 at Divine Mercy Parish, followed by burial at Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Beacon's Hospice/Amedisys, 245 Center Street Suite 10A, Auburn, Maine 04210. Please visit [beersandstory.com](http://beersandstory.com) for more information or to extend online condolences.

### Brian P. Guimond, 1962-2020

PALMER/THREE RIVERS - Brian P. Guimond, 58, passed away unexpectedly, Thursday, December 17, 2020. Brian was born, August 17, 1962 to the late Leo J. and Hilda M. (Peters) Guimond. He grew up in Palmer with his five siblings and attended Palmer schools graduating from Palmer High School. Brian was a self employed contractor working on carpentry and construction projects. He was a true entrepreneur, always working to improve and succeed in his business endeavors. He also could be found working on cars whenever someone needed a hand. Brian enjoyed camping and the Patriots-when they won. His greatest

joy was his daughter and his three cherished grandchildren.

Brian leaves his loving daughter; Kristina M. Guimond of Indian Orchard; his grandchildren, Alexis Gonet, Devon Gonet and Ariana Gonet; two brothers; Richard J. Guimond of New York, NY, Lawrence A. Guimond and his wife Jessica Guimond-Courville of Dudley; a sister, Nancy A. Guimond of Easthampton and his dog "Max". Brian was predeceased by his parents; a sister, Lorraine P. Guimond and a brother, Peter F. Guimond.



Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. Visiting hours were held Wednesday, December 23, 2020 from 4-7:00pm with a Celebration of Life Service at 6:00pm.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation in Brian's name to The American Diabetes Association PO Box 7023 Merrifield, VA 22116-7023 or to a diabetes charity of your choice. For online condolences please visit [www.lombardfuneralhome.com](http://www.lombardfuneralhome.com)

### William Charles Shaw, 70,

BELCHERTOWN — William Charles Shaw, 70, known as "Bronco Bill" to many, passed away Dec. 17, 2020, surrounded by his beloved family.

He was born on Nov. 19, 1950, in Springfield to the late Donald and Matilda (Dias) Shaw. Bill dedicated his life to his passion of Harleys through his business of over 50 years, Magnum Cycle.

He was unrivaled in his field. He has built, painted, and created many beautiful customized motorcycles. He was featured in "Easy Rider" and has been recognized on many occasions for his remarkable craftsmanship. He had customers from all over the world and took extreme pride in his work. He was dedicated, patient, and overly organized.

He had a huge heart and loved sharing his knowledge with anyone who wanted to learn. His heart, home, and garage doors were always open to everyone.

Bill enjoyed weightlifting, bicycling, playing sports, drag racing, and of course riding motorcycles with his friends.

The most important thing to him was his family and spending time with his precious grandkids. He will always be remembered for his quick wit and great sense of humor.

Besides his parents, Bill was preceded in death by his brothers, Donald Shaw Jr. and Joseph O'Neill. He will be forever missed by his two children, Dawn Morey, her life partner Ray Croteau and Mike Shaw, his life partner Vivienne Pelletier, as well as his 10 grandchildren: Kyle and his partner Crystal, Raymond, Desiree, Danielle, William, Michael, Troy, Nathaniel, Lillian, and Rosalie.



He leaves behind his siblings, Patricia McMenamin, James Shaw, Sandra Dobson, Raymond Shaw, Robert Shaw, Susan Shaw, and Margaret West. He also leaves the mother of his children and long-time friend Hazel Morey, along with many nieces and nephews he loved dearly and a countless number of friends.

Donations may be made in his honor to Cooley Dickinson VNA & Hospice or Shriners Children's Hospital. Due to current regulations and the impact Bill had on the lives of so many, services will be arranged at a future date so that all may attend.

Please visit [beersandstory.com](http://beersandstory.com) for more information or to extend online condolences.

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Convenience Store and others, for donations and assistance with the project.

Day said this project was something he chose because Burleigh Park holds fond memories.

"I played baseball here for about nine years as a kid, and every year we played the field was just embarrassing," Day said.

"The outfield there had big dirt patches everywhere and every time the wind blew a dust storm would emerge and you'd have to stop playing for a couple minutes. The town's been on the fields recently and they've been working on them, so I thought I'd do the dugouts for them."

Completing this project, along with earning a few more merit badges, will help Day reach the highest level of achievement a Scout can receive.

"It feels good," he said.

Day was not alone in his project and received assistance from fellow Troop 164 members Anthony Serrichio and siblings Peter and Thomas Traugh, who were more than happy to help.

## NOVEMBER



Poll workers Angie C. (left) and Deb C. Get ready to check in more voters at the Holland Community Center. There was a line to get in when the precinct opened Tuesday morning.

## Local poll workers guide seamless Election Day

Voters were casting ballots in droves across the nation, the Commonwealth and Hampden County on Election Day 2020. This has been an unprecedented general election year in which the COVID-19 pandemic drove a record number of early and mail-in ballots being cast.

Voting was brisk on Election Day. In Brimfield, Town Clerk Robert Sullivan said in-person voting was going well.

In fact, "It's perfect," he said.

At around 2 p.m., 625 in-person ballots had been cast. "At this rate – and of course it's a difficult comparison because we didn't have this many people [voting early], it looks like we will see the largest turnout we've had since 2012," Sullivan said, adding, "In the last eight years the voting population has increased by 150 [people]." Over 1,800 total ballots, including early votes, had been cast by Tuesday afternoon in Brimfield, which has 2,836 registered voters, according to Sullivan.

"It's very active. We're having a very good day," Sullivan said.

The story was much the same in Holland, where Town Clerk Jennifer Mott said at around 2:30 p.m., "so far it's going very well. We have been steady and nonstop since the second we opened."

There was a line out the door for the first 90 minutes after the polling site at the Holland Community Center opened Tuesday morning, Mott said. Nearly 1,000 votes, including early ballots, were cast by Tuesday afternoon. That's approximately half of the town's 2,064 registered voters.



Maya Rodriguez and Emily Provost of Brownie Troop 64913 in Palmer replace flags at the graves of veterans.



Brownie Troop 64913 members (back, from left) Chloe Paro, Sienna Labarre, Emily Provost, Maya Rodriguez, Amelia Labarre, and Tenley Bernal, and (front, from left) Clara Gould and Alexa Gould replaced flags on veterans' graves.

## Girl Scouts work with vets to honor others

When AmVets Post 74 in Three Rivers put out the call for volunteers to replace America flags at veterans graves, the girls of Brownie Troop 64913 were among those who answered. The young Girl Scouts had their first experience installing new flags at the graves of service members the weekend before Veterans Day. Besides performing community service, the girls learned more about those who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces and, though socially distanced, made new friends in the AmVets members they worked with.



Michael Defalco, lead member of the Sherman Room Digitization Team, and Roving Archivist Sarah-Jane Pointdexter.

## Grant funds 'roving archivist' at Brimfield Library

The Brimfield Public Library was pleased to announce it was a 2020 recipient of a Roving Archivist Program Grant.

Sponsored by the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Roving Archivist Program provides Massachusetts institutions, both public and private, that contain historical records, with access to a professional archivist who lends advice on policies, procedures, arrangement, and description of records, preservation planning and emergency preparedness.

As part of the grant, state Roving Archivist Sarah-Jane Pointdexter visited the Brimfield Public Library's Sherman Room in along with Library Director Rebecca Wells and Michael Defalco to conduct an evaluation of the collection. With guidance from Defalco,

Pointdexter was able to immerse herself in all that the Sherman room has to offer during her visit. She took great time and care to learn about the history of Brimfield and offered suggestions on how the current preservation operations can be improved.

"I am excited that Sarah-Jane was able to share her knowledge and expertise with us regarding best practices for preserving our most treasured historical artifacts. Brimfield is a community most proud of its history and the guidance provided by her will ensure that we are able to preserve our collection properly and for years to come," Wells said.

## A major milestone for J. Stolar

It was in 1980, when John Stolar created the now well-known J. Stolar Insurance Agency. After his unfortunate passing his 2005, his children, Christopher Solar and Renee Niedziela, took over and have now brought the agency into its 40th year in business.

The insurance agency covers home and auto insurance, commercial lines and more.

"A big service we offer is registry work, which has been the biggest part of our business as of late," Stolar said.

Niedziela said they also provide "old fashioned customer service."

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## Everyone welcomed to St. Thomas Christmas services

St. THOMAS the APOSTLE PARISH  
1076 Thorndike St  
Palmer, Massachusetts

St Thomas the Apostle Mass Schedule  
Christmas Eve Thursday Dec. 24, 4 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.  
Christmas Day, Friday Dec. 25, 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.  
Reservations are required for all masses to insure proper social distancing.  
Please Call 1-413-283-5091.

All Masses and Confessions are held in our parish center masks are required  
Everyone is welcome to celebrate Jesus' Birthday with our St Thomas Parish Family

## EARLY DEADLINE For All Advertising & CLASSIFIEDS

To celebrate **CHRISTMAS**, the Advertising Deadline will be **NOON - FRI., DEC. 18** for the week of **Dec. 22-25**

To celebrate **NEW YEAR**, the Advertising Deadline will be **NOON - WED., DEC. 23** for the week of **Dec. 29-Jan. 1**



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Palmer, MA 01069  
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## Early Deadlines

for all PUBLIC NOTICES...

to run the week of  
December 21-25, 2020:

- **Thursday, Dec. 17 at NOON**  
The Register, Sentinel,  
The Wilbraham-Hampden Times,  
Agawam Advertiser News,  
Quaboag Current
- **Friday, Dec. 18 at Noon**  
Barre Gazette, Country Journal,  
Ware River News  
The Journal Register
- **Monday, Dec. 21 at noon**  
Town Reminder,  
Chicopee Register and  
The Holyoke Sun

*Happy Holidays!*

*Happy New Year!*

to run the week of  
December 28 -  
January 1, 2021:

- **Wednesday, Dec. 23 at noon**  
The Register, Sentinel,  
The Wilbraham-Hampden Times,  
Agawam Advertiser News,  
Quaboag Current, Barre Gazette,  
Country Journal, Ware River News  
The Journal Register
- **Monday, Dec. 28 at noon**  
Town Reminder, Chicopee Register  
and The Holyoke Sun



# Baby's First Christmas 2020



## Zelda Josephine Izyk

December 24, 2019

**Parents:** Byron and Mia Izyk, Ludlow

**Grandparents:** Manny and Sue Santos, Ludlow  
Peter and Cheryl Izyk, Thorndike

**Great-Grandparents:** Bob and Mary Lou Murray, Brimfield



## Emerson Anne Smith

October 25, 2020

**Parents:** Hayden and Rachel Begley-Smith, East Longmeadow

**Grandparents:** Gerald Jr. and Kerry Smith, Agawam  
Catherine Smith, Agawam, Jeffrey and Bernice Begley, Palmer

**Great Grandparents:** Gerald Sr. and Anne Smith, Agawam  
David Burgess, Palmer



## TJ Sheehan

September 20, 2020

**Parents:** Lia and Tim Sheehan, Somers, CT

**Grandparents:** Luis and Jeanette Rivera, Palmer



## Kai West

June 5, 2020

**Parents:** Tiffany Lemke and Kameron West, Chicopee

**Grandparents:** Diane Lemke, Chicopee, Luis Martinez, Springfield  
David Street and Pamela West, Monson



## Theodore James Stone

August 13, 2020

**Parents:** Colton and Angie Stone, Poland, ME

**Grandparents:** George and Tracy Stone, Grand Cayman Islands  
Barbara McLean Stone, Greene, ME



## Ingo Ryan Haley

July 30, 2020

**Parents:** Shawn and Kathleen Haley, Southampton

**Grandparents:** Elke Ryan, Russell, Charles Ryan, Springfield  
Robbin Breyare, Palmer, Christopher Breyare, Palmer

**Great-Grandparents:** Mary Masse, Palmer



## Jack Tower

February 19, 2020

**Parents:** Sienna Farrar, Palmer

**Grandparents:** Amie Farrar and Frank Farrar

**Great-Grandparents:** Diane Dinelle and Dennis Stebenne

MERRY *Christmas*

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*Season's Greetings*

and **MERRY CHRISTMAS** to all!

## Public Notices

### PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 11, the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, January 4, 2021 at 7:20 PM** in the Town Hall Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

The applicant, Patricia L. Mead Wheelock, is seeking the renewal of her home occupation Special Permit as required under section and 171.81 A.(13), of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance for the continued operation of a reiki and acupressure business. The property is located at 54 South St. Three Rivers, MA and is also known as Assessors Map 70 Lot 112.

A copy of the application may be inspected on the Planning Department website at [www.townofpalmer.com/planning](http://www.townofpalmer.com/planning) or at the Planning Department office at Town Hall by appointment only.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

**Michael Marciniac**  
Chairman  
12/17, 12/24/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampshire Probate and Family Court  
15 Atwood Drive  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413)586-8500  
Docket No. HS20A0042AD  
CITATION  
G.L.c. 210, § 6  
In the matter of:  
Kaylyn Elizabeth Atha  
To: Jason W Atha**  
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:  
**Anthony Cortesi of Belchertown, MA  
Jocelyn Atha of Belchertown, MA**  
requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

**Kaylyn Elizabeth Cortesi**  
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related vet-

eran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Northampton ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 01/20/2021**

WITNESS, Hon. **Linda S Fidnick**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 18, 2020  
**Michael J Carey**  
Register of Probate  
12/24, 12/31/2020, 1/07/2021

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Pursuant to the provisions of MA Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due:

**J E E P** VIN: 1J4FJ68S3WL197618  
Alexandrea Chadwick 77 E. Main ST W. Brookfield, MA; **JEEP** VIN: 1C4BJWDG7GL310154  
Thomas Geas 1139 Westfield ST W. Springfield, MA; **VOLKSWAGEN** VIN: 3VWRZ71K49M122907  
Isaiah Salloom 159

Pleasant ST Easthampton, MA; **ACURA** VIN: 2HNYD18916H540696  
Felicia Ducharme 56 Daniel SQ Belchertown, MA; **HONDA** VIN: 1HGEM22582L045477  
Julie Weeney 22 Washburn AVE Apt. 2 Warren, MA; **KIA** VIN: KNRF4A64GS532667  
Nadia Santiago 139 Shearer ST Palmer, MA; **CHEVROLET** VIN: 1CYT82KL8CF6S97EC4  
30133 Ashley Papuzynski 2116 Calkins RD Palmer, MA. This auction is to take place on January 8, 2021, 10:00 A.M. at LaBonte's & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069.  
12/24, 12/31/2020, 1/07/2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
TOWN OF MONSON**  
Vertex Tower Assets, LLC (the "Applicant") has applied for a Special Permit from the Town of Monson Planning Board to construct a Wireless Communications Facility including a 100' tall monopole style tower at **Lakeside Drive, Tax Assessors Parcel 52-24, on land owned by Peter D. Martins and Lori S. Martins.** The Applicant will conduct a Visual Demonstration to illustrate the location and height of the proposed Facility by raising a balloon at and to the height of the proposed Facility. Said Visual Demonstration will be held **SATURDAY 9, 2021 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm**, weather and wind conditions permitting. In the event of inclement weather on January 9, 2021, the Visual Demonstration will be resched-

uled to Sunday January 10, 2021, wind and weather conditions permitting. In the event of inclement weather on January 9, 2021 and January 10, 2021, the Visual Demonstration will be rescheduled to Saturday, January 16, 2021 or Sunday January 17, 2021, wind and weather conditions permitting. If you have any questions concerning said Visual Demonstration, please contact the Town of Monson Planning Board, [hwilson@monson-ma.gov](mailto:hwilson@monson-ma.gov) OR Francis D. Parisi, Esq., Parisi Law Associates, P.C., PHONE: (401) 447-8500, EMAIL: [fparisi@plapc.com](mailto:fparisi@plapc.com). Please check the Parisi Law Associates, P.C. website [www.plapc.com](http://www.plapc.com) after noon on the day before the scheduled date(s) to determine if the balloon will be up the following day.  
12/24, 12/31/2020

### LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by John Wojnilowicz and Kevin Brooke to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for NovaStar Mortgage, Inc., dated April 13, 2006 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15828, Page 529 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage The Bank of New York Mellon, f/k/a The Bank of New York as successor in interest to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Trustee for NovaStar Mortgage Funding Trust, Series 2006-2, NovaStar Home Equity Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-2 is the present holder by Assignment

from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for NovaStar Mortgage, Inc. to The Bank of New York Mellon, as Successor Trustee under NovaStar Mortgage Funding Trust, Series 2006-2 dated November 11, 2008 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 17582, Page 530, and Corrective Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for NovaStar Mortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns to The Bank of New York Mellon, f/k/a The Bank of New York as successor in interest to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Trustee for NovaStar Mortgage Funding Trust, Series 2006-2, NovaStar Home Equity Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-2 dated January 17, 2019 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 22530, Page 162, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 2 Barker Street, Three Rivers (Palmer), MA 01080 will be sold at a Public Auction at **11:00 AM on January 13, 2021**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land with buildings thereon situate on the westerly side of Barker Street in the Village of Three Rivers, in said Palmer, bounded and described as follows;

Beginning at a stone in the westerly side of said Barker Street and in the southerly line of a private way fifty (50) feet wide known as Chudy Avenue, said bound being fifty (50) feet S. 8° 14' W. measured along the westerly side of said Barker Street from an

iron pin at the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of one Mowduk; thence

S. 8° 14' W. a l o n g the westerly side of said Barker Street eighty (80) feet to a point; thence

N. 83° 58' W. a l o n g land now or formerly of Frank Chudy one hundred (100) feet; thence

N. 8° 14' E. a l o n g land now or formerly of Frank Chudy eighty (80) feet to the southerly line of said Chudy Avenue; thence

S. 83° 58' E. a l o n g the southerly line of said Chudy Avenue one hundred (100) feet to the place of beginning.

Together with the right, in common with said Chudy, his heirs and assigns, to convey said sewage through said pipe as now laid in said Chudy Avenue, Barker Street and land now or formerly of one Musgrave to the town sewer in Belchertown Road; together with the right to enter upon said lands for the purpose of maintaining and relaying said sewer pipe, in the event that Frank Chudy, his heirs or assigns, shall neglect to repair or maintain the same.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15828, Page 527. See also deed recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 20156, Page 456. The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other

municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

**Terms of the Sale:** Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

**Other terms to be announced at the sale.**

The Bank of New York Mellon, f/k/a The Bank of New York as successor in interest to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Trustee for NovaStar Mortgage Funding Trust, Series 2006-2, NovaStar Home Equity Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-2

Korde & Associates, P.C.  
900 Chelmsford Street  
Suite 3102  
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(978) 256-1500  
Wojnilowicz, John and  
Brooke, Kevin, 13-011709  
12/17, 12/24, 12/31/2020

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2020 | from page 9



J. Stolar Co-owners and siblings Christopher Stolar and Renee Niedziela succeeded their father, the company's father in the family business, which is now in its 40th year.

Stolar said the company knows its customers on a personal level and combines an old fashioned style of business with modern-day technology.

“We know them and when they call we have that ability to be more personal than some of the big, online companies,” said Stolar. “We also have the ability to do the same online tasks that the online companies can do. We can start a whole policy just over the computer, through email and conduct online payments.”

The insurance agency can also write policies for clients all across and around Massachusetts.

When reflecting on the passing of their father and officially incorporating J. Stolar in 2006, Stolar said it was “pretty sudden and we didn’t want the business to go away. It was like our second home. We wanted to keep it going.”



Palmer High's Theriault achieved her 100th career point against Pathfinder on Nov. 9

## Theriault hits 100 points, headed for Fairfield

Several graduates of Palmer High School have played for a Division 1 college athletic team. Junior Madalyn Theriault will be joining that elite group in the fall of 2022.

“I’ve verbally committed to Fairfield University for soccer,” said Theriault during a recent zoom interview. “It feels so nice knowing that I’ll be attending a great college and will be playing soccer for a Division 1 team, which is a huge honor for me.”

The Fairfield women’s soccer team, who are members of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, did not play any matches this past fall because of COVID-19.

The Stags advanced to the MAAC Championship Finals last year where they lost to top-seeded Monmouth. Fairfield head coach David Barrett was selected as the 2019 MAAC Coach of the Year.

“During the recruiting process, the Fairfield coaching staff not only valued me as a soccer player, but they also valued me as a person,” Theriault said. “Coach Barrett is a great soccer coach and I can’t wait to play for him. The Fairfield campus is also beautiful.”

The last member of the Palmer girls varsity soccer team, which is coached by Nick Marciano, to play college soccer at the Division I level is Madison Stahelski. She’ll be a senior at Sacred Heart University next year

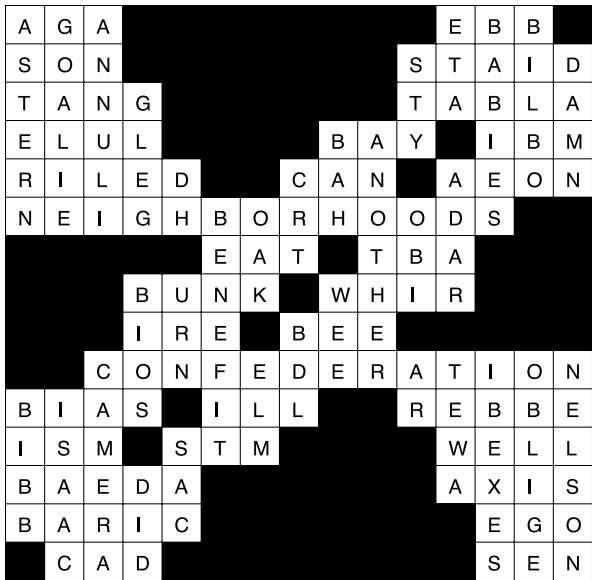
“Maddy is someone that I looked up to as a role model when I was younger,” Theriault said. “I aspire to be just like her.”

## DECEMBER



Juan Larronde with a tray of fresh and hot empanadas at Three Rivers Restaurant, where customers find delicious food and a friendly atmosphere provided by Juan and his wife and business partner Sara Larronde.

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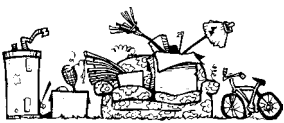
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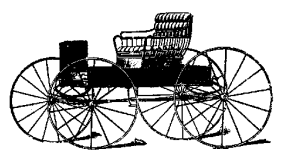
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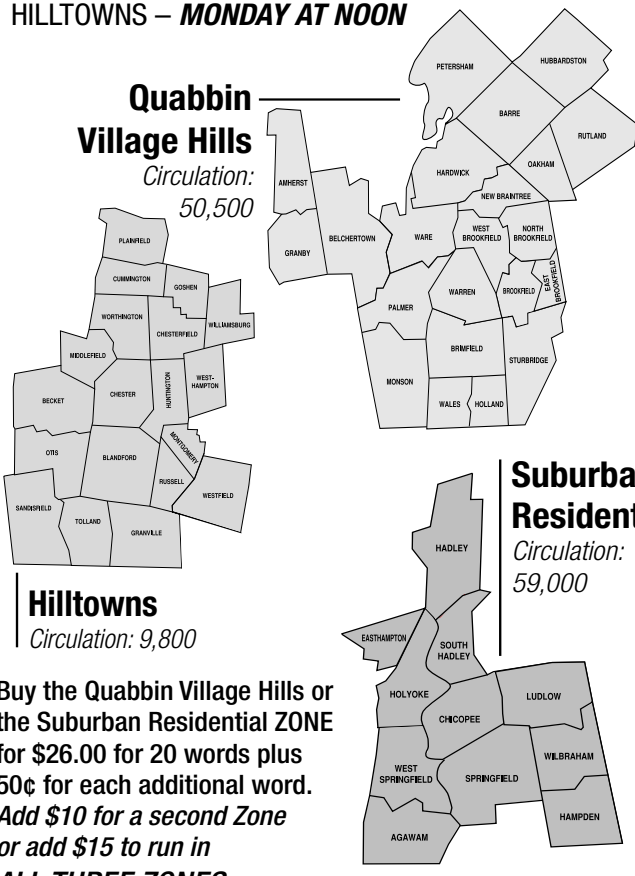
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2020 | from page 11

Intrepid entrepreneurs find creative ways to make businesses work

If there's one thing most business owners do, it's crunch the numbers long before flipping over that "Open" sign on the door for the first time. Very few probably ever factor in a pandemic. Still, there are local business owners who have found ways to make it work while they ride out the pandemic and look forward to a more robust year ahead.



Tanya Bullock

"Some of us are hanging on by a shoe string," Tanya Bullock, owner of Life Memories and More, the only independent-owned papercraft store in Massachusetts, said earlier this month.

Bullock, past chair of the Quabog Hills Chamber of Commerce and a champion of small, local businesses, works through whatever creative gymnastics necessary to find a way to accommodate all of her customers. Online commerce is fine for some. In-store appointments is best for others. Whatever it takes, she meets all customers where they need her to be.

"It definitely presents a challenge to change from being an all in-person business to have people come in by appointment. But maybe I can send you pictures [of products]. We can find a way to work it out," said Bullock, who moved her business to 2067 Main Street in Three Rivers just as restrictions on businesses were imposed by the state to discourage people from going out in public and spreading the virus.

As challenging as that sounds, consider what Juan Larronde had to confront after opening Three Rivers Restaurant down the block from Bullock's shop at 2047 Main Street on March 26. Most food-related businesses operate on the thinnest of margins in the best of times. Even Larrondes' most conservative projections couldn't have anticipated pandemic-induced shutdowns and the effect it would have on the supply chain.

"You tend to have a steady pace for your supplies, but this pandemic made all the supplies go crazy," Larronde, who runs the craft empanada and cheesecake shop with his wife Sara, said.

At Three Rivers Restaurant, where you can get a variety of the hand-held flakey dough-wrapped meat pies for about \$2 and whole gourmet cheesecakes for \$25-\$35 (or individual slices as well as sides, salads and other baked goods), Larronde won't sacrifice quality for price.

Now as Larronde and Bullock approach their one-year milestones – Life's Memories and More in a new location and Three Rivers Restaurant its first anniversary – both have to brace for an expected next big wave of COVID-related disruptions. What they have on their side this time, however, is experience navigating the choppy pandemic waters and a greater sense of community. Not just with customers, but with their fellow

entrepreneurs as well.

Bullock says she's proud of how the local business community has rallied and shows support for one another. And, while pouring their hearts and souls into their businesses, they still find a way to go the extra mile.

"We're all trying to pivot and think outside the box," she said.



Residents and business owners participated in the Light Up Palmer home decorating contest. Winners were announced last week.

Light Up Palmer gives town a festive vibe

To help brighten up the Town of Palmer during the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigate the loss of annual holiday festivities, the Light Up Palmer Committee hosted its second annual Neighborhood Decorating Contest. Christine Smith, chairman of the committee, said this competition was open to all residents and businesses in town and the surrounding villages. Prizes included \$50 for Best Holiday Window and Best Holiday Door, and \$100 for "Best Merry and Bright."

"What we're trying to do is spread some cheer throughout the town and hope that people will participate and light up their neighborhoods in a pretty dark time due to the pandemic," Smith said. Go to the Light Up Palmer Facebook page to view this year's winners.



Toy drive a success

More than 125 toys were collected Monday at a toy drive organized by local residents and hosted by Main Street Tavern in Monson. Dana, Kim, and the staff helped ensure that even in this difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic, Christmas presents will be distributed throughout the community of Monson to children who otherwise would go without.



Because of the success of Stuff the Cruiser, several children will now have gifts to look forward to this Christmas.

Community 'Stuffs the Cruiser' to bring Christmas cheer

Santa's Elves for Palmer, with help from the community, has been busy making sure this Christmas will be remembered for more than the COVID-19 pandemic. The group sprang up in response to the economic fallout of the pandemic. Organizer Lori Chiacchia, with help of Emily Skoczylas and Lorinda Baker, hosted completed a successful Dec. 5 "Stuff the Cruiser" event that collected gifts for local children who otherwise might go without.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Palmer Police Department, the three members of Santa's Elves for Palmer collected food and toy donations to be distributed to families in need.

The support the event received, according to Chiacchia, was nothing short of amazing.

"I can't speak good enough about it," said Chiacchia.

"The community really came and helped out."

She also said the group received support from members of the Palmer Lion's Club, Palmer police officers, the Palmer Ambulance Services and more. All during a weekend featuring freezing rain, snow and biting wind.

Skoczylas, who is also the manager of the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force and helped identify families in need, was also grateful for the turnout of the event.

"It was absolutely incredible," said Skoczylas. "Every child will have multiple gifts under the tree, ranging from baby dolls to Hot Wheels, to family board games."

She also couldn't say enough of the generosity and community spirit of Palmer.

"There is a community that is willing to help out," Skoczylas said. "All you have to do is just ask."

HCC's 'Bake With Me' series focused on families

HOLYOKE – This coming March, Holyoke Community College will offer a weekly series of baking classes aimed at parents and their children who want to learn to create tasty treats together under the guidance of a professional chef.

The "Bake With Me" series runs for four consecutive Fridays in March from 4 to 5:30 p.m. over Zoom.

Each class will focus on a

different dessert: March 5 (Key Lime Pie); March 12 (caramel cheesecake); March 19 (blackberry cobbler a la mode); and March 26 (royal icing sugar cookies).

Classes will be led by Chef Maureen Benton, an instructor in HCC's Culinary Arts program.

"Bake With Me" offers families a fun way to connect, laugh and learn together from

the comfort of their own kitchens," said Michele Cabral, HCC executive director of Business, Corporate and Professional Development. "Since the pandemic started, my husband and I have been Zoom cooking with our grandson and love the memories we are creating as a family."

Each session costs \$49 and comes with a special baking kit. The kit includes a shopping list, recipe cards and two kid-sized

kitchen tools: Session 1 (apron and whisk); Session 2 (chef's hat and spatula); Session 3 (oven mitt and ice cream scoop); Session 4 (dish towel and rolling pin).

The kits will be available for pickup, drop-off or delivery by mail.

"When kids learn to bake, they develop confidence, and, without knowing it, they are also practicing their math skills,

as they learn to measure ingredients and scale up or scale down a recipe," Cabral said. "But the classes will also offer kids a chance to play in the kitchen. They get to experiment, be creative, and, in the end, they'll have a yummy treat to share with their families."

Class size is limited. To register for one or more sessions, please go to: [hcc.edu/bake-with-me](http://hcc.edu/bake-with-me).

The Brightest Joy

The Warmest Cheer

The Greatest Happiness

May this Christmas bring you the best of everything!

May all the pleasures that inspire joy be with you at home or in spirit at Christmastime and all year.

Thanks for rooting for local businesses like us in 2020 and showing us so much support. We look forward to better times ahead as we work to serve you safely in 2021 and beyond!

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